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1964/08/05

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action

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Info

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Control:

Rec'd:

2633

AUGUST 4, 1964

11:58 PM

FROM: SAIGON

ACTION: SECSTATE 303 FLASH
DOD 24 FLASH

INFO : CINCPAC 141 FLASH
WHITE HOUSE 20 FLASH
CIA 21 FLASH

08

DATE : AUGUST 5, 11 AM

EXDIS

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Authority State Ltr. 3/30/78

PIERCE ARROW

By Shaw, NARS, Date 5/18/78

DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM 341.

IN COMPANY WITH ALEX JOHNSON AND WESTMORELAND I SAW KHANH AT 0930 SAIGON TIME AND GAVE HIM INFORMATION AND ADVICE CONTAINED IN REFTEL. KHANH WAS DELIGHTED WITH NEWS AND ASKED PERMISSION TO TELL CABINET WHICH WAS MEETING AT 1000. AS EXECUTION OF ATTACKS HAD NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, I AUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION LESS INDICATION OF TARGETS.

AT SAME TIME, I URGED KHANH AND HE AGREED TO STRESS TO CABINET SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND NEED TO CLOSE RANKS AND ACHIEVE GREATER UNITY.

THERE FOLLOWED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO TAKE IN SVN IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE HOSTILE REACTION. KHANH WAS INCLINED TO PUT OUT SOMETHING TO PUBLIC WARNING PEOPLE (OF SAIGON IN PARTICULAR) OF DANGER OF AIR ATTACK. WE PERSUADED HIM NOT TO DO SO, POINTING OUT DANGER OF PANIC AND GOT HIS AGREEMENT TO SAY NOTHING PUBLICLY NOW. LATER, FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT NOT YET RECEIVED HERE, HE WILL WANT TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT

EXPLAINING
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-2- 303, AUGUST 5, 11 AM FROM SAIGON

EXPLAINING SITUATION AND URGING NATIONAL UNITY.

IT WAS AGREED THAT AN ALERT SHOULD GO OUT THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS WARNING OF POSSIBLE VC REACTION AND AIR ACTION AGAINST TARGETS IN I AND II CORPS, PARTICULARLY THE AIR FIELD AT DANANG AND THE 34A MARINE BASE. WESTMORELAND IS MEETING WITH DEFMIN KHIEM TO WORK OUT DETAILED ALERT PLAN.

GEN KHANH STATED THAT HIS AIR FORCE WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTION AGAINST NVN. I TOLD HIM THAT I UNDERSTOOD HIS DESIRE TO JOIN FORCES BUT THAT NOW WAS NOT THE TIME. HE SHOULD KEEP HIS MILITARY GUARD UP AND AWAIT OUTCOME OF EVENTS IN PROGRESS.

KHANH MENTIONED THAT IN CASE OF AIR ATTACKS ON SAIGON HE WAS PREPARED TO MOVE TO EMERGENCY CP'S WHICH HE HAD PREPARED AT CAP ST. JACQUES, DALAT AND NHAN TRANG. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TO HIM, HE SUGGESTED GIVING ME A PAPER ASKING US INTERVENTION AND TAKE OVER OF COMMAND IF HE DISAPPEARED. I ACKNOWLEDGED THIS MIGHT BE A DESIRABLE THING BUT LET MATTER DROP. (I WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON ATTITUDE TO TAKE ON THIS POINT.) KHANH ALSO INDICATED THAT HE STILL REGARDS KHIEM AS HIS SUCCESSOR.

WESTMORELAND INFORMED KHANH THAT HE WAS SEEING GEN MINH SHORTLY FOR PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING GEN THROCKMORTON AND GOT KHANH'S AGREEMENT TO TELL MINH THE SAME THINGS WHICH KHANH WAS ABOUT TO TELL CABINET REGARDING EVENT IN TONKIN GULF.

I INFORMED KHANH ON LEAVING THAT US WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF F-102'S PRESENTLY IN SVN AND HE EXPRESSED THANKS WHILE REMINDING US THAT US HAS THE ONLY MEANS FOR AIR DEFENSE OF HIS COUNTRY.

GP-1.

TAYLOR

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NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 12:33 AM AUGUST 5, 1964

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